

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 14, 17 and 18 remain in the application. Claims 15 and 16 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the subject matter of claims 7, 11, 12 and 15-18 was found to be allowable. The subject matter of claims 15 and 16 has been incorporated into amended claim 1 making claim 1 allowable. The balance of the claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are also allowable.

Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the support layer is of a compressible or displaceable material (page 6, lines 25-29) and the cover is permeable and absorbent (page 4, lines 17-19). Also claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the cover is removably attached to the peripheral rim.

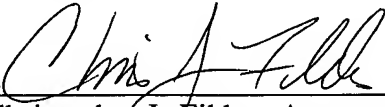
None of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest the structure of amended claim 1. Therefore the withdrawal of the rejections based on Hosokawa in view of Alivizatos and Olson is proper.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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